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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
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9 TGP Communications LLC, *et al.*,

10 Plaintiffs,

11 v.

12 Jack Sellers, *et al.*,

13 Defendants.
14

No. CV-22-01925-PHX-JJT

ORDER

15 Under Local Rule of Civil Procedure (LRCiv) 16.2 providing for differentiated case
16 management, this action, commenced on November 12, 2022, is currently designated a
17 standard track case for the purpose of setting a Pretrial Scheduling Conference.
18 Accordingly,

19 **IT IS ORDERED** that, pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
20 (Fed. R. Civ. P.), a **Telephonic**¹ Pretrial Scheduling Conference is set for **February 21,**
21 **2023, at 9:00 AM** (Arizona time), Courtroom #505, Fifth Floor, Sandra Day O'Connor
22 U.S. Courthouse, 401 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona. Counsel—which includes
23 self-represented parties—are directed to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 for the objectives of this
24 conference. **COUNSEL WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRIAL OF THE**
25 **LAWSUIT FOR EACH PARTY SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE PRETRIAL**

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27 ¹ Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, civil hearings before Judge Tuchi are being
28 held telephonically. Counsel or self-represented parties have the option to appear in person.
Chambers will e-mail counsel or self-represented parties call-in information prior to the
hearing, at which time they can inform the Court via reply e-mail if they will appear in
person or telephonically.

1 **SCHEDULING CONFERENCE.** At least one of the attorneys for each party attending
 2 the conference shall have authority to enter into stipulations and make admissions
 3 regarding all matters that may be discussed.

4 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all parties are directed to meet at least 21 days
 5 before the Pretrial Scheduling Conference, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f), to
 6 discuss each of the following matters:

7 1. The possibility of consent to trial before a United States Magistrate Judge
 8 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), or the use of any alternative dispute resolution mechanism,
 9 or the referral of this matter to a special master;

10 2. Any matters relating to jurisdiction, venue, or joinder of additional parties;

11 3. The nature and bases of their claims and defenses and the possibilities for
 12 prompt settlement or resolution of the case;

13 4. A schedule of all pretrial proceedings, including any evidentiary hearings
 14 pursuant to Rule 702 of the Federal Rules of Evidence (Fed. R. Evid.);

15 5. Whether any party desires a settlement conference before a judicial officer;

16 6. Initial disclosures under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a);

17 7. The subjects on which discovery may be needed, when discovery should be
 18 completed, and whether discovery should be conducted in phases or be limited to or
 19 focused upon particular issues; and

20 8. Any other matters that counsel believe will help resolve the case in an
 21 efficient and economical manner.

22 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, at the Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) Case Management
 23 Meeting, the parties shall develop a **JOINT PROPOSED CASE MANAGEMENT**
 24 **PLAN.** This plan shall include individually numbered brief statements concerning:

25 1. The nature of the case, setting forth in brief statements (no more than one
 26 page per side) the factual and legal basis of Plaintiff's claims and Defendant's defenses;

27 2. A list of the elements of proof necessary for each count of the Complaint and
 28 each affirmative defense. Where the burden of proof shifts, each party shall list the

1 elements of proof that party must satisfy to prevail. The list of elements of proof must
2 contain citations to relevant legal authority, (*i.e.*, United States statutory or administrative
3 law, United States Supreme Court case law, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case law,
4 Arizona case law or statutory law, or other authority as required by choice of law rules);

5 3. The factual and legal issues genuinely in dispute (no more than one page per
6 side), and whether they can be narrowed by stipulation or motion;

7 4. The jurisdictional basis of the case, citing specific statutes. If jurisdiction is
8 based on diversity of citizenship, a statement of the citizenship of every party and a
9 description of the amount in dispute shall be included. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332. The parties
10 are reminded that (1) a corporation is a citizen of the state where it is incorporated and the
11 state of its principal place of business, and (2) partnerships and limited liability companies
12 are citizens of every state in which their partners or members are citizens. *See* 28 U.S.C.
13 § 1332(c); *Johnson v. Columbia Props. Anchorage, LP*, 437 F.3d 894, 899 (9th Cir. 2006);
14 *Indus. Tectonics, Inc. v. Aero Alloy*, 912 F.2d 1090, 1092 (9th Cir. 1990). The parties are
15 further reminded that the use of fictitious parties (“John Doe” or “ABC Corporation”)
16 “casts no magical spell on a complaint otherwise lacking in diversity jurisdiction.” *Fifty*
17 *Assocs. v. Prudential Ins. Co. of Am.*, 446 F.2d 1187, 1191 (9th Cir. 1970);

18 5. Parties, if any, that have not been served, as well as parties that have not filed
19 an Answer or otherwise appeared, including fictitious parties. Unless counsel can otherwise
20 show cause, they shall submit with the Proposed Case Management Plan a proposed Order
21 dismissing any party that has not been served, including fictitious parties, and a motion for
22 the entry of default against any non-appearing party if the time for answering or otherwise
23 appearing has expired. If a party has been served but not appeared, Plaintiff(s) or
24 Counterclaimant(s) shall provide a copy of this Order to that party;

25 6. The names of parties not subject to the Court’s jurisdiction;

26 7. Whether there are dispositive or partially dispositive issues to be decided by
27 pretrial motions, and the legal issues about which any pretrial motions are contemplated;
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8. Whether the case is suitable for reference to a United States Magistrate Judge or a special master;

9. The status of related cases pending before other judges of this Court or before other courts;

10. A description of the parties' discussions of initial disclosures under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a);

11. Proposed deadlines (month/day/year)² for:

- (a) filing motions to amend the Complaint or to join additional parties;
- (b) if a patent case, exchange of patent claim constructions and filing of claim construction opening brief, response, and reply;
- (c) completion of all fact discovery;
- (d) disclosure of expert testimony by all parties under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2);
- (e) disclosure of rebuttal expert testimony by all parties;
- (f) disclosure of all witnesses, exhibits and other matters under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3);
- (g) closure of all discovery;
- (h) completing good faith discussions of settlement; and
- (i) filing dispositive motions, **including *Daubert* motions**;³

12. The scope of discovery, including any suggested changes in the limitations on discovery imposed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and whether discovery should be conducted in phases or should be limited to or focused upon particular issues. For example, where dispositive motions will be filed (*e.g.*, motions for summary judgment on a statute of limitations defense), counsel should consider limiting discovery to the issue at hand until the Court has ruled on the motion;

13. Estimated length of trial, and any suggestions for shortening the trial;

² The Court prefers to set deadlines for Fridays.

³ Evidentiary motions made under *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharm., Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993).

1 14. Whether a jury trial has been requested and whether the request for a jury
2 trial is contested. If the request for a jury trial is contested, the Proposed Case Management
3 Plan shall set forth the reasons that a trial by jury is in dispute;

4 15. The prospects for settlement, including any request to have a settlement
5 conference before another United States District Judge or a Magistrate Judge, or any other
6 request of the Court for assistance in settlement efforts;

7 16. In class actions, the proposed dates for class certification proceedings and
8 other class management issues. Such certification will result in the case being reassigned
9 to the complex track for case management purposes (*see* LRCiv 16.2);

10 17. Whether any unusual, difficult, or complex problems or issues exist that
11 require this case to be placed on the complex track for case management purposes (*see*
12 LRCiv 16.2); and

13 18. Any other matters that counsel believe will aid the Court in resolving this
14 case in a just, speedy, and inexpensive manner.

15 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that counsel shall jointly file their Proposed Case
16 Management Plan (e-file the Plan using the Other Documents category and use the drop-
17 down event Report re: Rule 26(f) Planning Meeting) **not less than SEVEN (7) DAYS**
18 before the Pretrial Scheduling Conference. No extensions of time will be granted.

19 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that it is the responsibility of counsel for Plaintiff(s)
20 to initiate the communications necessary to prepare the Joint Proposed Case Management
21 Plan. Once contacted by counsel for Plaintiff(s), counsel for Defendant(s) shall act in an
22 expeditious manner to effect the preparation of the Proposed Case Management Plan.

23 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that counsel for all parties are expected to comply
24 with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 and to minimize the expense of discovery.

25 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that counsel must be prepared to discuss what the
26 parties must prove in order to prevail on their respective claims or defenses at the time of
27 the Pretrial Scheduling Conference and to discuss logistical matters.
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